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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/995,724	11/29/2001	Hirokazu Kawamoto	862.C2450	1850
5514	7590	01/25/2005	EXAMINER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112				WOO, ISAAC M
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2162				

DATE MAILED: 01/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Applicant No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/995,724	KAWAMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Isaac M Woo	2162	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 November 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-8 and 10-57 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 25-48 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,3-8,10,12-17,19-24 and 49-57 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 2, 11 and 18 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to Applicant's Amendments, filed on June 14, 2004 have been considered but are deemed moot in view of new ground of rejections below.
2. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-8, 10-11, 13, 15-18, 20 and 22-24 are amended, Claims 49-57 are newly added. Claim 9 is canceled. Claims 25-48 are withdrawn. Claims 1-8, 10-24 and 49-57 are presented for examination for this office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 12-17, 19-24 and 49-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ta et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,498,656, hereinafter, "Ta").

With respect to claims 1, 10, 17 and 24, Ta discloses, storing (col. 1, lines 25-57, PC with storage media stores rules for printing) a part of a plurality of conflict process rules (col. 1, lines 53-58, col. 9, lines 28-54), wherein the plurality of conflict process rules define conditions for avoiding a conflict between the plurality of printing functions, see (col. 9, lines 28-54, printer job setting conflicts are resolved by the system); generating a complimentary rule that corresponds to the rest of the plurality of conflict process rules on the basis of the part of the plurality of conflict process rules, see (col. 1, lines 53-58, col. 9, lines 28-54, system resolves the various menu selections/settings automatically, and or warn the user that such conflicts exist prior to printing the job); inputting the user's request via the user interface to designate a printing function corresponding the user's request, see (fig. 4, col. 4, lines 52-67 to col. 5, lines 1-18, user input the printer setting from menu); and updating a setting state of the printing function of the printing device by applying the part of the plurality of conflict process rules and the complementary rule in accordance with the user's request inputted by the user, see (fig. 2, col. 9, lines 7-28, new printer menu set up is overrides (updates) old menu set up that created conflicts before).

With respect to claim 3, Ta discloses, storage means stores the part of the plurality of conflict process rules as a conflict process rule description file, see (col. 4, lines 52-67 to col. 5, lines 1-18).

With respect to claims 4,12 and 19, Ta discloses, conflict process rule description file is described in accordance with a predetermined markup language, see (fig. 4, col. 4, lines 52-67, user interface is GUI).

With respect to claims 5, 13 and 20, Ta discloses, conflict process rule description file describes a local rules which can be applied to only a specific printing device, and a universal rule description file that describes a universal rule which can be commonly applied to a plurality of printing devices is externally referred to, see (col. 4, lines 52-67 to col. 5, lines 1-18).

With respect to claims 6, 14 and 21, Ta discloses, conflict process rule description file contains a description of an update command of the user interface, see (col. 4, lines 52-67).

With respect to claims 7, 15 and 22, Ta discloses, additionally writing the complementary rules rule generated by complementary rule generation means in the conflict process rule description file, see (col. 4, lines 52-67 to col. 5, lines 1-18).

With respect to claims 8, 16 and 23, Ta discloses, informing that the setting state of the printing function of the printing device has been updated upon applying the part of the plurality of conflict process rules or the complementary rules by the update means, see (col. 4, lines 52-67 to col. 5, lines 1-18).

With respect to claims 49, 52 and 55, Ta discloses, controlling the user interface to change a display status of a display item of the setting state of the printing function of the printing device updated by the update means, see (col. 4, lines 52-67).

With respect to claims 50, 53 and 56, Ta discloses, change of the display status of the display item includes payout or display/non-display of the display item, see (col. 4, lines 52-67).

With respect to claims 51, 54 and 57, Ta discloses, conflict process rule defines a condition for avoiding a conflict between at least two printing functions among Collate printing function, Group printing function, Staple finishing function and Booklet printing function, see (col. 1, lines 53-58, col. 9, lines 28-54).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 2, 11 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Isaac M Woo whose telephone number is (571) 272-4043. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

IMW
January 11, 2005



JEAN A. CORNELIUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER